

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1597

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001

MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICE OF COPRA .

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that copra cultivation/price is falling regularly and the cultivators are not getting remunerative price;
- (b) if so, the cost of production and the price structure for the past two years;
- (c) whether the Government propose to declare Minimum Support Price of copra during the season;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor and the measures being taken to protect the interest to copra cultivators?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) Area under coconut has continuously increased from 1.53 million hectares in 1991-92 to 1.91 million hectares in 1998-99. The market prices of Copra have been showing a subdued trend since February 2000. To ensure payment of remunerative prices to the growers, National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED), has been undertaking procurement of Copra under Price Support Scheme (PSS). Till February 2001 a quantity of 213849 tonnes of Milling Copra and 3011 tonnes of Ball Copra has been procured.

(b) Based on modal/prospective yields and real rates of interest, the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) estimated the cost per nut as Rs.3.50 and Rs.2.39 for the states of Kerala and Karnataka respectively and accordingly recommended the Minimum Support Price of milling copra at Rs.3250/- per quintal and of Ball Copra at Rs.3500/- per quintal for the year 2000 season. The average annual wholesale price of milling Copra in Kozhikode was Rs.2525 per quintal in 2000 and Rs.3833 per quintal in 1999. In Alleppey it was Rs.2528 per quintal in 2000 and Rs.3960 per quintal in 1999 respectively.

(c) to (e) The Price Policy for Copra for 2001 season is under active consideration of the government and is expected to be announced shortly.